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MM51/0429

EXAMINER

LEJA, R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2836

11

04/29/98

DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on 7-7-98 This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), ✓ days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

1. Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
2. Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
3. Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
4. Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
5. Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
6.

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. Claims 1-13, 15, 17-23 and 25 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.

2. Claims 14, 16, 24 and 26 have been cancelled.

3. Claims 18-22 are allowed.

4. Claims 1, 4, 7-13, 15, 17, 23 and 25 are rejected.

5. Claims 2, 3, 5 & 6 are objected to.

6. Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are acceptable; not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).

10. The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been approved by the examiner; disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been approved; disapproved (see explanation).

12. Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has been received not been received been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.

13. Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. Other

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 4 and 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koepp (3,636,385).

Koepp discloses a circuit comprising a first transistor (16) of a first type and a second transistor (36) of a second type, but does not disclose the use of a capacitor having a first terminal directly connected to the first supply terminal and a second terminal directly connected to the gate of the second transistor. However, use of such a capacitor would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill as a mere matter of engineering design choice as a means to control the timing of conduction or triggering of the second transistor, which would depend greatly upon application and the necessary speed of protection. As far as the polarity of the supply, such limitations are well within the abilities of one having ordinary skill and would have been obvious as a matter of engineering design choice and dependent upon such considerations as circuit application, resulting in versatility. As far as the claim language "coupled" as found in Claims 8-11, such language is very broad, and as such, the elements within Figure 1 meet the language since all the elements or components within the circuit are coupled to one another and can be properly viewed as being coupled in the manner recited in the claims.

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3. Claims 15, 17, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takata et al. (5,526,214) in view of Michel et al. (5,418,411).

Figure 2 of Takata et al. discloses the claim language except for the use of a capacitor. However, Michel et al. teach in Figure 3a, the use of a capacitor in conjunction with transistors T33, T34 & T35. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the capacitor as a means to help control the timing or triggering of conduction of the transistors within a circuit, as desired, in order to meet particular circuit operating parameters, resulting in a highly effective circuit.

4. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Claims 18-22 are allowed.

6. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Ronald W. Leja whose telephone number is (703)308-2008.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1782. The Group FAX numbers are (703)305-3431 or (703)305-3432.

RWL
April 24, 1998

Ronald W. Leja
RONALD W. LEJA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

4/24/98